

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-109. (Cancelled)

110. (New) A local area network comprising:
a plurality of local area network nodes;
a LAN switch; and
communication cabling connecting said plurality of nodes to said switch
for providing data communication;
said LAN switch comprising:
coupler circuitry coupling power into the communication cabling
substantially without interfering with data communication; and
a power management and control unit governing the supply of power
to at least some of the plurality of local area network nodes via the communication
cabling.

111. (New) A local area network according to claim 110 and also comprising a reporting functionality operative to output a report pertaining to the status of at least one of the plurality of nodes.

112. (New) A local area network according to claim 110 and also comprising a power supply subsystem which supplies operating power to at least one of the local area network nodes via the communication cabling.

113. (New) A local area network according to claim 110 and also comprising a power supply subsystem which supplies backup power to at least one of the local area network nodes via the communication cabling.

114. (New) A local area network according to claim 111 wherein said report includes a report of at least one characteristic of at least one node from among the plurality of nodes.

115. (New) A local area network according to claim 114 wherein said at least one characteristic comprises an indication of power consumption of at least one node from among the plurality of nodes.

116. (New) A local area network according to claim 114 wherein said at least one characteristic comprises at least one characteristic of the power allocated to at least one node from among the plurality of nodes.

117. (New) A local area network according to claim 110 wherein said communication cabling comprises a multiplicity of twisted cable pairs and wherein data and power are carried on the same twisted cable pairs.